

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 3, please insert the following:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 14, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 5, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, please replace the paragraph which begins on line 5 and ends on line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Therefore, an~~ An object of the invention is to determine approximately the point in time of a query from the central control unit, in order to coordinate therewith the production of the measured value therefor. For such purpose, a method and a corresponding apparatus are required.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph which begins on line 35 and ends on page 6, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object is ~~solved~~ also achieved with respect to the an apparatus by the features that at least one field bus communication unit is provided, which, in the case of a query from the control unit, communicates at least the measured value, and that at least one output/control unit is provided, which controls the measuring point in time (t_M) of the field device, wherein the field bus communication unit transmits at least the communication point in time (t_k) to the output/control unit. The apparatus thus includes a field bus communication unit - e.g. an ASIC -, which accepts queries from the field

bus and determines whether the query is directed to the particular field device. The output/control unit, which can be an appropriate microprocessor, receives reports of the communication points in time (t_k) and starts with them in approximating the following communication point in time (t_f). With that, the measuring point in time (t_M) is then determined and the measuring suitably initiated.

On page 6, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 15, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 6, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 20, please insert the following:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page 9, please delete in its entirety.